(d) the details of loss projected by the Government due to shortage of power; and

(e) the remedial measures being contemplated by the Government to check the shortage of power ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The rate of growth of GDP depends on a number of factors. Power shortage is one of the several factors which affect the rate of growth of GDP. Shortages are increasing at about 1.5 per cent per annum. Presently, there is an energy shortage of 13 per cent and peaking shortage of 17 per cent. Government is well aware of the need for bridging the gap between demand and supply of power and efforts are being made to maximise generation with the help of better plant utilisation by increasing Plant Load Factor, accelerated Renovation & Modernisation of the existing units and capacity addition programme. Central or the State Governments have not projected the losses due to shortage of power.

Subsidy on Petroleum Products

1815. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHR INAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is providing subsidy on petroleum and petroleum products;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given during each of the last three years on these products;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the subsidy during 1996-97; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The estimated subsidy provided on petroleum products during the last three years and for 1996-97 are as under :

(Rs./Crores)

Year	Amount
1993-94	6596
1994-95	6560
1995-96	9360
1996-97 (Estimated)	18440

(c) and (d) Subsidy on petroleum products is met through Oil Pool Account mechanism which presently is having a deficit estimated to be Rs. 15,500 crores by 31.3.97 and its position is being monitored on a continuous basis for remedial measures.

Houses to Homless

1816. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Housing Minister's Conference was held in 1975 and had recommended a number of measures for low cost housing;

(b) if so, the number of conferences which have taken place after 1975;

(c) whether all the recommendations of the Housing Conferences have been implemented;'

(d) if not, the number out ot them which still remain to be implemented;

(e) the total houses built for the low income group people during the last three years, State-wise;

(f) the number of people of this category still without housing facilities; and

(g) the concrete proposals that the Government propose to undertake to private houses to the low income groups in the country during the Ninth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Conference of State Ministers of Housing and Urban Development held in Bhopal in October, 1975 had interalia made recommendations on the following issues bearing on low cost housing :-

(i) Economy in use of scarce building materials like cement, steel-adoption of Minimum technical specification.

(ii) Investigation for production of cheaper and improved building materials from agriculture and forest wastes for rural construction, and

(iii) Putting up clusters of demonstration of rural houses along with environmental improvements and also model villages.

(b) to (d) After the 1975 Conference, several conferences on State Housing and Urban Development Ministers have been organised. The last such conference